



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



May 30, 2013

### **Subject: Import and Export of Wildlife at U.S. Customs Ports of Entry in Minnesota**

**Background:** As a service to the wildlife trade, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has traditionally provided wildlife import/export inspections at the non-designated port of Minneapolis/St. Paul in Minnesota. The wildlife inspector stationed at this port has also processed cross-border shipments for importers and exporters utilizing the two other ports in this State (Grand Portage and International Falls). This officer will retire as of June 1, 2013.

The Service implemented a nationwide hiring freeze in March 2013 in response to budget sequestration. This hiring freeze remains in effect. Vacancies in the wildlife inspection program thus cannot be filled at this time.

We recognize that this situation could adversely affect wildlife importers and exporters that routinely utilize ports in Minnesota. To minimize such impacts, we are implementing the special procedures outlined below.

**Action:** Effective immediately, importers or exporters of wildlife that want to use any port located in Minnesota (Grand Portage, International Falls or Minneapolis/St. Paul) will be required to request authorization to use these ports by contacting the Service wildlife inspector at Port Huron, Michigan. Importers and exporters must provide prior notification of shipments and obtain clearance from this office:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
2321 Pine Grove Avenue, Suite 2201  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
Phone: (810) 985-9160  
Fax: (810) 985-9163  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This procedure will remain in place until further notice.

**Contact:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax)  
[lawenforcement@fws.gov](mailto:lawenforcement@fws.gov) (e-mail)